

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 603

By Hill

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the administration, staff and supporters of the Hands On! Museum upon its 20th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have helped to preserve our culture and provide learning experiences for our society; and

WHEREAS, such noteworthy persons comprise the administration and staff behind the Hands On! Museum, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2007; and

WHEREAS, since opening its doors in September 1987, Hands On! Museum has offered over twenty permanent exhibits and two feature exhibits every year in its 27,000 square feet of space; and

WHEREAS, Hands On! offers 100,000 educational programs to almost 70,000 visitors each year, seeing visitors from about forty-five states as well as several foreign countries and reaching its one millionth visitor in February 2003; school groups visit Hands On! from Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the museum has an impact of over \$1.25 million dollars annually on the Tri-Cities MSA economy; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Hands On! has been selected by *Child* magazine as one of the best museums for children in the United States; the museum's Eastman Discovery Lab received awards from the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association, the Tennessee Association of Museums, and the Association of Science-Technology Centers, from which it received the Roy L. Shafer Leading Edge Award for Visitor Experience; and

WHEREAS, each year, Hands On! Museum ranks as one of the top attractions in the State of Tennessee, tying with Bristol Motor Speedway and Dollywood as the Best Regional Attraction as voted on by *Marquee Magazine* readers; and

WHEREAS, during its twenty years of existence, Hands On! Museum has provided a rich learning experience for the public, especially its young visitors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud those who maintain and promote this exemplary museum for their dedication to the education of this State's citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and applaud the administration, staff, and supporters of Hands On! Museum for their hard work and diligence and congratulate them upon the museum's 20th anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.